

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 2, 1906.

## BRITISH CANNED GOODS SHOW SHOCKING SCANDALS



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LONDON, August 23, 1906.

**G**UILTY American meat packers may at least rejoice in having companions in crime. Examinations just made in England by various sanitary authorities conclusively demonstrate that English meat packers and other food manufacturers are quite on a par with their American cousins whom they have so loudly denounced recently. From every part of London, and, indeed, from all the big cities of England, come reports from sanitary authorities to the effect that conditions prevailing in a number of canning factories, in meat markets, slaughter houses and butcher shops "could not be worse."

According to statements made over their own signatures by many of the most prominent public analysts, meat prepared and put up by English packers is often in a condition not only dangerous to public health, but absolutely poisonous. All sorts of ruses and dodges are employed for concealing the real nature of the foodstuffs prepared in this country.

When the first announcements of the Chicago exposures reached England, a universal shout went up from the meat packers to the effect that had "home industries" been patronized there would have been no cause for alarm. Almost immediately the importation of American canned goods dropped off to an alarming extent, and the American industry received a staggering blow. No reports of this loss by British packers themselves, and the "trade" generally, to roast American products of every kind; and while the American market these packers made desperate attempts to get their own products prominently before the public, stores in various parts of London displayed big signs reading "No American tinned goods sold here—British products only." "Use honest British Goods; don't eat vile American stuff."

But the triumph was not for long. Dr. F. Cooper, one of the best known medical men in London, who is also member of parliament, and of the London county council, rose up bravely to say in public that English meat packers and sellers were as guilty as their American rivals. In a statement made to the writer on this subject Dr. Cooper said:

"The public has no conception of the filthy conditions prevailing in most of the small slaughter houses in England. They are absolutely without any inspection whatever; the butchers may kill when they like and under whatever conditions they please. The places literally reek with filth; they are never properly cleaned up, and the conditions under which animals are slain make the meat unfit for human consumption. I have proof of the sale in London of the carcasses of animals that have died of tuberculosis in various parts of the country."

"As for meat inspection in this country, it does not exist. The inspectors have no training whatever—they know nothing about bacteriology or meat inspection. They only have their sense of smell to go by. Butchers know this; and when they have meat which is particularly bad and smell so foul that even an inspector would notice it they treat the meat with permanganate of potash, which kills the smell temporarily. At least, long enough for the so-called inspector to pronounce it sound."

"What with selling tuberculous and rotten meat, and with the perfumery and

useless system of alleged inspection that goes on in this country, I do not consider that we in England are whitewashed or that we are any better than the Americans. With uneducated inspectors who are not up to the tricks of the trade no one in England is safe in eating the roast beef of old England that we boast so much about."

"There is a place in Smithfield market—the largest meat center in England, where thousands of tons of meat are sold—which is called 'Rotten Row.' This section of the market does not come under the jurisdiction of the inspectors who have charge of the city of London; and, as a consequence, when any bad meat is to be disposed of it finds its way to 'Rotten Row.' Here inspectors are not allowed to interfere, and you may imagine what goes on. Tuberculous, filthy meat is here offered for sale. People of the poorer classes buy this stuff; and I have no doubt that many diseases and even deaths may be attributed to it."

"I have seen with my own eyes crates of Ostend rabbits treated with permanganate of potash to keep them from smelling, and sold at the ridiculously low price of 5 cents per crate. This is practically giving them away. They have to be sold quickly even the purchasers would realize their condition."

"It must be remembered that rabbit is one of the staple articles of consumption among the poorer classes in England. Thousands of tons of rabbit are sold on the London markets each year. Of course, I do not say that all this meat is bad, but a large quantity of it is. None of it is properly inspected, and it is often sold in a condition which renders it highly dangerous for human consumption."

"Even when meat is in a fairly decent condition I have seen it offered for sale under circumstances which render it unfit for human food. In England a large amount of trading is done from what are called barrows, or, as the Americans say, push carts. Everything is sold on these carts, from salt and meat to furniture and fish. Again and again I have seen push carts with meat and fish for sale standing over open, foul-smelling drains and sewers. Naturally this meat, often being warm and fresh killed, forms a splendid culture medium for all sorts of germs, and, of course, when human beings buy it is literally reeking with all sorts of bacterial matter. A great deal of it gets fly-blown, and if we had any decent inspection in this country it would be condemned. There should be a law passed in this country forbidding the sale of meat from push carts, and also it should be forbidden to expose meat on the dusty streets unprotected by glass covering, as is done in every butcher shop in England."

"No matter what may be said of Chicago, we have equally bad conditions prevailing here, not only in the sale of what is misnamed 'fresh-killed' meat, but also in the sale of meat which has been in the hands of the great 'house-cleaning' firms. As a matter of fact, nearly every London public analyst just now has his hands full, making analyses of canned meats and other canned goods. Special attention is being given to British produce,

and some startling revelations have just been made. At the special instances of the local government board no less than twenty-eight different sections of London have taken up the investigation of canned goods from various English packing houses. In every public laboratory—and there is one for nearly every district of London—you see piles of canned goods standing waiting for analysis, while specially employed chemists, microscopists and bacteriologists are looking assiduously for evidences of diseased and deleterious matter in the contents of the supposedly irreproachable English canned goods about which packers have been boasting so much."

"The result of many of these analyses has been the prosecution and infliction of heavy fines and even imprisonment on many London packers. In one case, where boracic acid was found in potted ham, the meat had turned black, and it was testified by experts that it had been treated with preservative because it was unfit for human consumption when packed. The firm whose label was on this abominable had been supplying large quantities of canned meats to the British army, and had branches in London, Dover, Dublin, Aldershot (the principal army corps camp), Gibraltar and other places. Undoubtedly each year thousands of tons of this deleterious canned stuff were supplied to the British army. The magistrates on this occasion imposed a fine of £25 on one analysis and £250 costs, while other analyses were sent up for 'further investigation.'"

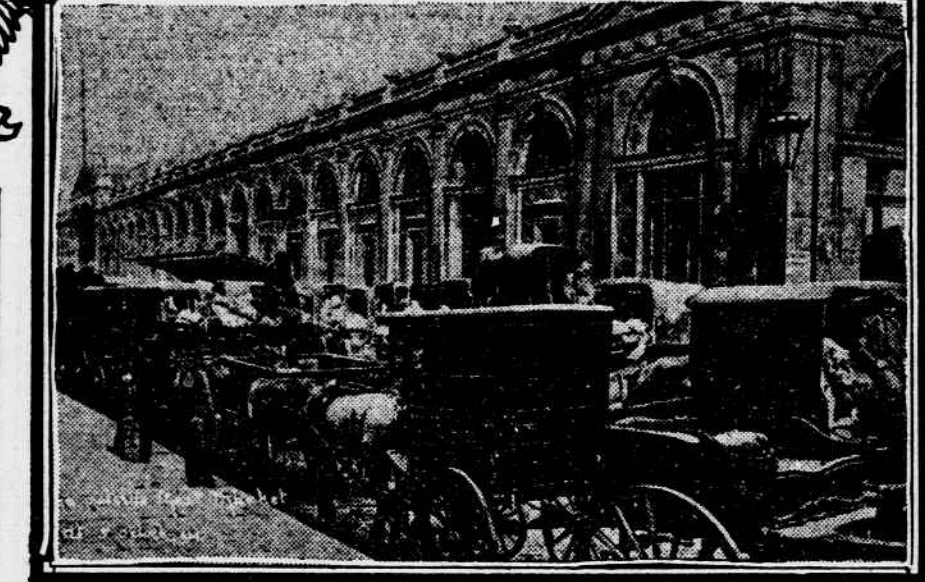
"The public analyst who has done more work on foodstuffs than any other London health officer is Dr. D. L. Thomas, medical officer of health for the metropolitan borough of St. Mary. It is in Dr. Thomas' district that many of the largest London districts are situated. Here arrive daily shipments from all over the world; and it is from this district that large shipments of British canned goods are sent abroad."

"Dr. Thomas was found by the writer in his laboratory, surrounded by huge piles of tin-plated dishes placed over spirit lamps and undergoing incineration; others were being weighed on delicate analytical balances; while the doctor himself was busy with the microscope looking for 'acid organisms.' Departing from the rule of most London medical officers, he permitted himself to be photographed while at work."

"We examine in this district," said Dr. Thomas, "foodstuffs from all parts of the world. We have fruits and pulps from England and America, goods from Tasmania; rabbits, fruit and meat from Australia; meats, salmon and fruits from Canada, and some fruit from California."

and 4 inches. The armament consists of four torpedo tubes. Storage batteries are used for submerged running and the vessel's displacement is about 167 tons. For surface propulsion and charging batteries an oil engine of the inverted marine type is used.

Under the contract the vessel is required



SMITHFIELD MARKET

will make not less than eight knots an hour when submerged. Another test is that the vessel is to be subjected to a trial in which the vessel, with crew, is to be entirely self-sustaining. The contract price for each of these four ships is \$300,000. Provision for their construction was made in the naval appropriation bill approved April 27, 1904, which authorized the Secretary of the Navy in his discretion to contract for or purchase subsurface or submarine boats, after satisfactory tests by comparison or competition with boats belonging to the government or to any private competitor.

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We have practically no canned goods from the American Beef Trust in our district. Most of our stuff is British, therefore, and our results point conclusively to the fact that British goods are no better than those from America; and, in many cases, much worse. For instance, to give some interesting figures, in 1901 110 tons of impure food were destroyed; in 1902 430 tons of bad food were destroyed; while in 1904 there were 726 tons of British food which had to be condemned. The remarkable increase from 1901 to 1904 shows the loose methods employed in packing tinned meats. On an average in our district alone during the last five years there has been one ton of tinned goods destroyed daily."

"Of course, all this is highly deleterious. In salmon I have found traces of lead as well as large quantities of tin. Food that has been tinned more than three years should be looked upon with suspicion."

"We often find that bad meat is used in London when minced. This meat is spiced to disguise the smell and taste. The minced meat should only be allowed at state times when under proper inspection."

"In our district we have found some of the tripe shops and other meat places where small quantities are sold to be in a filthy condition. In one place I examined I found two tons of pieces of meat, such as sheep's heads, tripe, liver and a species of dog's head cheese in a vat under the most disgraceful conditions. In the same room was an open sewer, and the same day you never see horses' tongues being sold for cats' meat. I am under the impression that many of these shops are used in London for human consumption."

Confirming the opinions of Dr. Thomas, which are here given, owing to the fact that he has analyzed a large quantity of foodstuffs than any other medical officer of London, are the opinions of nearly all other London analysts. Some even have found even worse conditions than Dr. Thomas. In fact, the medical officer for Bethnal Green—in the East End of London—found a can of brown—a species of hog's head cheese—much used as food in London—which was literally reeking with living organisms. This was worse than anything he had ever found in the goods coming from American packing houses."

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the fact that when you tap them on the outside they give forth a more resonant note than sound tins. The gases which have gathered inside the tin make a note from half a tone to a tone higher than the note given out by the sound tin. In good meat, well packed, the sound is dead."

"In old cans we often find large quantities of tin mixed with the food. This is very injurious to health and may cause severe illness, and even death from setting up gastro-intestinal trouble. The maximum amount of tin which I have found in English canned goods has been as follows: Lobster, 2.94 grains per pound; mackerel, 2.55 grains per pound; pineapple, 2.97 grains per pound; salmon, 1.32 grains; condensed milk, 2.37 grains; apricot, 2.92 grains; black currant jelly, 1.96 grains."

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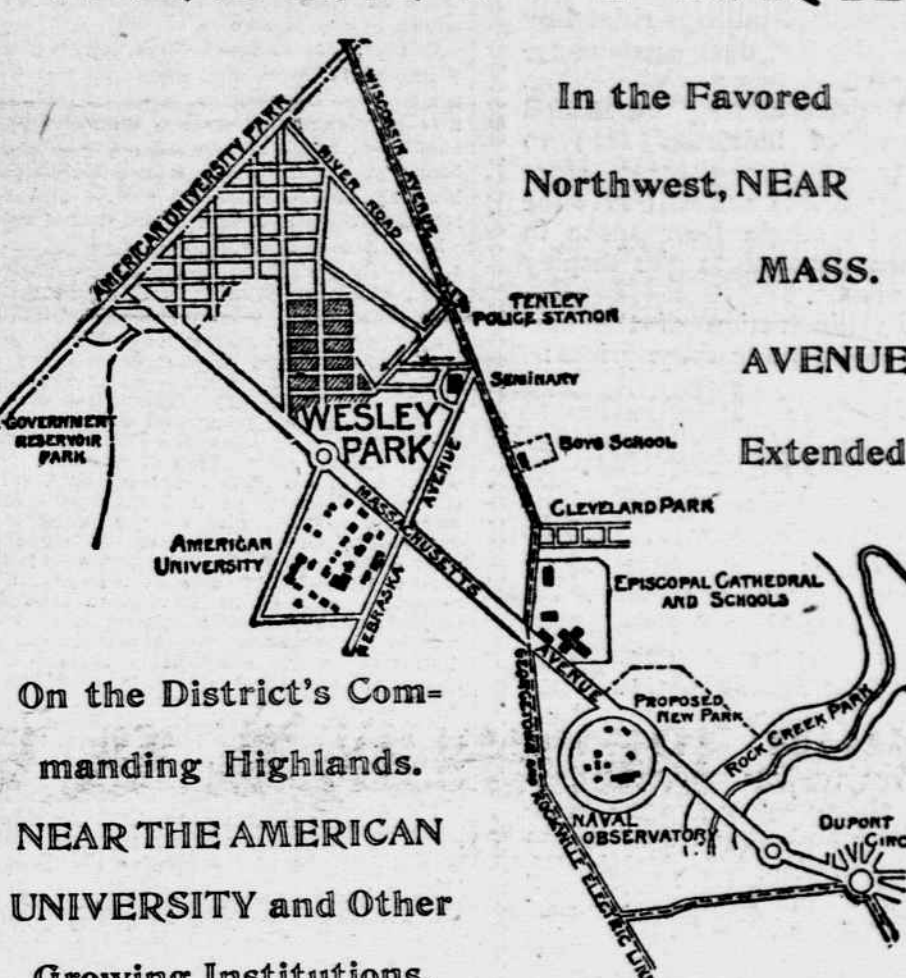
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## WESLEY PARK



On the District's Commanding Highlands.  
NEAR THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY and Other Growing Institutions.  
Massachusetts Ave.  
\$47,800.  
Congress has appropriated this large sum for the improvement and extension of this great thoroughfare. Nearly the entire avenue to the District line has been dedicated.  
Sewerage, \$91,000.  
The cheapest ground in the District for investment—for homes.  
\$600 for 40-ft. and 50-ft. frontage, \$25 to \$50 cash and \$10 to \$15 a month.

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## SUFFRAGISTS HAVE FIRST GREAT MEET

Copenhagen Convention Very Successful—Mrs. Carrie C. Catt Presided.

Special Telegram to The Star.  
COPENHAGEN, September 1.—The women suffragists who have been in session here have concluded their labors and departed for their homes. It was the first great international gathering and from Iceland in the north to Italy in the south women of all ages and all social positions gathered to discuss their plan of campaign.

It is interesting to note, that the president of the International Alliance of Women's Suffrage Associations is an American lady, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. American ladies, who have taken the place formerly held by Miss Susan B. Anthony, the pioneer of the movement in the United States.

Mrs. Catt managed the assembly with great skill, putting all the business in a clear and interesting manner. She is an accomplished speaker. It was through her initiative that women all over the world have united to work together for every nation which possesses a women's suffrage association has joined the international alliance.

At this congress ten countries were represented, Russia having applied to be allowed to send delegates. Three Russian ladies were welcomed with the utmost enthusiasm, and it was decided that they should be allowed to work together for five minutes to read their report instead of the twenty allotted to other countries. Mrs. Catt emphasized the feeling of the whole meeting when she said they had so much that was important and new to tell.

The Russian ladies say that their meeting in Moscow was a success, and that they were able to meet in the country it is impossible. If more than six ladies assemble together they may be dispersed by the police.

Extra time was also unanimously voted to Finland, which has within the last few weeks reached the position where Englishwomen are still debarred. By a happy accident, as it almost seems, Finland, by a stroke of the pen, obtained from the privilege of having her women value so highly. The long, long fight, the endless organizations, speeches and wearisome work of propaganda have not been necessary in the case of Finland.

The vice president of the congress is Dr. Anita Augspurg of Germany, a brilliant scholar and speaker, who has taken her degree of doctor of law in Switzerland, but who is refused the degree in Germany, and all right to practice her profession.

Dr. Shirmer of Berlin, the secretary, lives in Paris, and is a journalist. She contributes political articles to the Tageblatt of Prague, and has also published a biography of Voltaire and books on the industrial condition of women in France.

One of the best-known American delegates is the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, formerly minister of a Primitive Methodist chapel in the United States.

The president of the Danish Woman's Suffrage Association is Fru Louise Norlund, a prominent member of other advanced Danish societies for helping women.

By profession Fru Norlund is a teacher in a state school. Froken Sophie Alberti, sister of the Danish president of council, is the head of the press bureau.

No Decimal Coinage.

Special Telegram to The Star.

STOCKHOLM, September 1.—After thirty months' negotiations, the commonwealth's proposal to establish a decimal coinage in Australia has been overruled by the imperial government, which, while willing to allow Australia credit on silver coins used in Australia, objects to the existence of a separate currency of different denominations in the commonwealth as calculated further to break the uniformity of the empire's currency.

The Australian proposal was that the decimal coins should gradually replace the present currency, the two systems meanwhile existing simultaneously.

## High-Class Homes.

See those handsome homes, corner Columbia road and Biltmore street, Washington Heights.

REASONABLE PRICES.

These choice homes represent the very best value in modern home properties—in such a select and convenient location—THE ONLY LOCATION SO CONVENIENT TO BOTH CAR LINES. Well constructed and a pleasing style of colonial architecture; SEMI-DETACHED, AFFORDING 2 BATHS; HARDWOOD FLOORS.

Might consider exchanges.

See these houses and consult us for a good deal.

Moore &amp; Hill (Inc.), 717 14th St. N.W.

## Best Investments On the Market.

Modern dwelling of 8 rooms and bath, in first-class condition, on 6th st. S.W., near H st. to be sold to a quick purchaser for \$1,000 less than actual value; this will appeal to any person desiring a home or a conservative paying investment.

11th st. near E st. S.W., brick dwelling of 8 rooms, in good condition; never vacant; in splendid neighborhood; a decided bargain at \$2,800.

An attractive home of 6 rooms and bath on G st. near 9th S.W.; the home is in thorough condition; deep lot to a wide paved alley; one of the rare bargains on the market at \$2,900; it will go quickly at that price.

JOHN QUINN, 7th and E Sts. S. W.

## FOR RENT—

The Juniata 1424 W St. N.W.

Cheerful and homelike apartments of 4, 5 and 6 rooms and bath; prices from \$30.50 to \$45 per month.

OPEN FOR INSPECTION.

B. F. SAUL CO., 7th and L Sts. N.W.

## LOVERS CRUELLY HOAXED.

By a Swimming Ghost of Alster Lake.

Special Telegram to The Star.  
HAMBURG, September 1.—A couple of lovers who had gone for a row on the Alster-Hamburg's charming lake and had chosen one of the most secluded parts, with overhanging trees, to rest and dream away the happy hours in the moonlight, were the victims of a cruel jest the other evening.

Out of the dark water there appeared a white object, which floated slowly toward the boat. "Look, a dead body!" exclaimed the young lady in terror, and her sweet heart at once seized the oars and made an effort to escape the uncanny thing.

Suddenly the body rose half out of the water, and in sepulchral voice said, "Give me your boat," and at the same time a hand was stretched out to seize it. This was too much for the sweethearts, who sprang out of the boat into the water, screaming loudly for help.

This brought several other boats to the scene, and the couple were rescued, but the bather who had played this cruel hoax had vanished.